

chau
vpp/~~atg~~st.mex

6

chau
vpp/~~atg~~st.mex

chau
vpp/~~atg~~st.mex

chau
vpp/~~atg~~st.mex

chap
vpp/~~atg~~st.mex

chap
vpp/~~atg~~st.mex

Our discussions ignored this history, and proceeded as if the concepts and practices were directly suited to the "consolidation of governmental authority over regions infected by bandits, or subject to "indirect aggression" from outside the borders, or "subversion, rebellion, insurgency." Are any of the latter terms appropriate to resistance to foreign occupation or foreign domination? Counterinsurgency might better have been described as Repression-of-The-Resistance (to occupation, invasion, domination by foreigners).

We theorized and acted as if we were not foreigners in Vietnam; and to compound the irony, we acted and thought as if "North Vietnamese" were foreigners in "South Vietnam," and indeed as if Communists were foreigners in either part. (Vietnamese could be described as foreigners in Cambodia and Laos, and as violating their sovereignty by their operations and influence: but so were we!)

Even on the false assumption that there were, in nationalist terms, two countries, we are this week addressing the fact that JFK was inserting over a thousand Vietnamese into North Vietnam as early as his first month in office in 1961.

Chau says, from his experience in his own family, that many non-Communist nationalists joined the Communist leadership and cause, from 1946 on, only because the US was supporting the French, and it therefore seemed necessary to have the support of the Chinese and Soviets on the basis of Communist leadership. If the US had simply refrained from supporting the French, he believes that many--he himself, and perhaps his brothers, especially by 1950--would have rallied to other nationalist leadership against the French, rather than ally with the Communists. In 1945, he says, out of a million Vietnamese there were perhaps 50 to 100 Communists. It was US support of France that threw the weight of anti-French nationalism behind the Communists! (I commented that this was a totally unfamiliar assertion to me, and very interesting).